

MAY 2003 INJURY PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

Alaska News & Resources

1. Intermediate Injury Prevention Course to be offered in October
 2. Fairbanks Police Step Up Seat Belt Enforcement
 3. State Attorneys General Announce Agreement to Protect Children from Lead Paint Poisoning
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National News & Resources

4. Summer Tire Checklist
 5. Fishin' in the Rain – Safely
 6. A Pitch for Kid-Friendly Baseball
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Miscellaneous News & Resources

7. What's New at CDC's Injury Center?
 8. Children's Online Health Connection Newsletter
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 10. Product Recalls and Safety Information
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1. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is sponsoring a nationally-accredited Indian Health Service Intermediate Injury Prevention Course (aka Level 2) in Anchorage, October 7-10, 2003. This course has not been offered in Alaska before, and is the new and improved version that was offered for the first time in Albuquerque earlier this year. Contact Ryan Hill at ANTHC (rhill@anthc.org, 729-3799) for more information on registering for this course. A copy of the schedule is available at: www.chems.alaska.gov/ems_injury_prevention.htm
2. Fairbanks is the first municipality in Alaska to allow police to pull motorists over simply for not wearing a seatbelt. A new ordinance increases the fine for not wearing a seatbelt, and changes the violation from a secondary to a primary law. That means police don't have to wait until the motorist violates another law, before pulling a vehicle over after spotting an adult or child not properly restrained with a seatbelt or safety device. This ordinance is only enforced within the Fairbanks city limits. For more information: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner: www.news-miner.com/Stories/0,1413,113~7244~1379973,00.html
3. A new agreement between state Attorneys General (including Alaska) and the National Paint and Coating Association (NPCA) requires paint manufacturers to affix warning labels on paint cans and provide consumer education and training, alerting consumers to the hazards of lead paint exposure and how to avoid it. Lead poisoning stemming from inadequate surface preparation prior to repainting affects children from all social and economic background. Whether repainting a rented apartment or installing a new kitchen, it is imperative that families take proper precautions. For more information, call the Environmental Protection Authority's Lead Information Hotline (1-8000424-5323) or www.epa.gov/lead
4. The Department of Transportation has issued tire safety tips for consumers as we are getting ready for summertime vacations. Tire care is especially critical in warm weather because long trips, heavy loads, higher speeds, and higher temperatures all put additional stress on tires. Check tires for signs of wear, damage, bulges, or tread separation; be sure tires are properly inflated and check tire pressure often; check tire pressure when the tires are cold;

never overload the vehicle; make sure there is enough tread on the tire to operate safely; make sure your tires are aligned and balanced properly; don't drive at a high rate of speed for a long time; and make sure every person is properly restrained in a seatbelt or child safety seat on every trip!

5. Fishin' In the Rain – Safely. Just a reminder that if the weather is cold and wet, you run the risk of hypothermia unless you are prepared. Wear several layers of clothing, with rain gear on top; get indoors when you start feeling cold; avoid caffeinated drinks and alcohol; and keep a set of dry clothes in your car, cabin, or boat so you can change into dry clothes immediately when you're done fishing.
6. More than 90,000 children age 14 and under suffered baseball-related injuries requiring emergency room visits in 2001 according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC estimates safety equipment – soft balls, face guards, and breakaway 'safety bases' – could decrease baseball-related emergency room visits by up to a third. For more information on preventing baseball injuries visit: www.kidsource.com
7. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) has the latest news for injury prevention at: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whatsnew/whatnew.htm. Sign up for the NCIPC email list that announces updates to the What's New page: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/email_list.htm
8. Another interesting electronic newsletter highlighting children's health news comes from Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle. Some of the topics from the latest newsletter include: Helping Kids Cope With War; Giving Medicines Safely; and Head Out With a Helmet. If you would like to receive the newsletter, send an email to subscribe@seattlechildrens.org
9. Your Orthopaedic Connection, from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, has a great website: Prevent Injuries America! Move Better. Play Better. Live Better. <http://orthoinfo.aaos.org>
10. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: www.cpsc.gov.



Have a Safe Summer!

This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Mary Krom, mary_krom@health.state.ak.us

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list serve: http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm

Link for AHELP list serve: <http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>